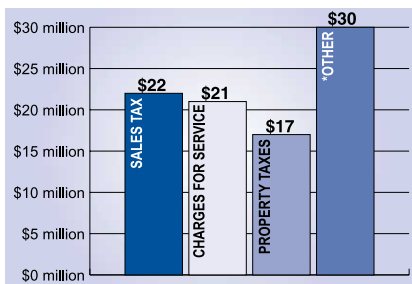




Council Adopt\$ Budget, Lower\$ Tax Rate

Sugar Land City Council adopted a \$90 million operating budget for fiscal year 2000-2001. The balanced budget lowers the property tax rate by one cent to \$0.3483 per \$100 assessed valuation, one of the lowest in the state.

The general operating fund increased year-to-year by about four percent, with capital improvements representing the main increase. Projected 2001 funding sources for the budget include:



**Includes franchise fees, interest income, bond proceeds, fines and forfeitures*

"Sugar Land residents will continue to enjoy quality public services, plus a number of key capital improvements. The budget takes a multi-year approach to utilize all resources available to provide services and plan for the future, while producing the least impact to the taxpayers," said City Manager David Neeley. "For the second year in a row, a Texas Municipal League study listed Sugar Land with the third lowest tax rate in a group of 22 cities in a population range of 40,000 to 90,000."

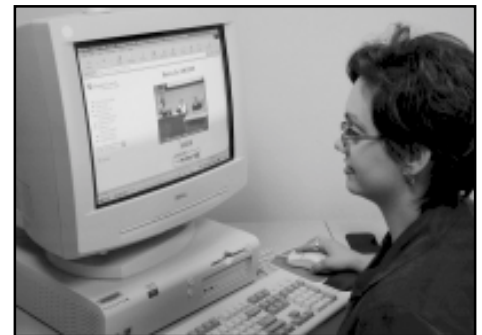
A portion of the sales tax (25%) is dedicated to economic development and helps fund projects such as the U.S. 59

continued on page 2

City Council "Site"-ings Meetings Now On-line

In a Texas first, residents do not have to leave home to visit a Sugar Land City Council meeting. All they have to do is visit the City's Web site at www.ci.sugar-land.tx.us.

City Council meetings, which take place every first and third Tuesday of the month, are now displayed on-line. Hyperlinks allow each item to be pulled up and viewed separately. Meetings are available for viewing three days after each Council meeting.



Sugar Land resident Heather Genzer views a City Council agenda item on-line.

Videos of meetings have been digitized so that viewers may watch them using their personal computer. Viewers also can watch the meetings using area library computers.

"Sugar Land has taken the lead by its innovative approach of making City government more accessible to our residents," says City Manager David Neeley. "We have also launched an electronic traffic fine payment program, and our on-line job postings allow those interested to fill out an employment application and e-mail it back to Human Resources."

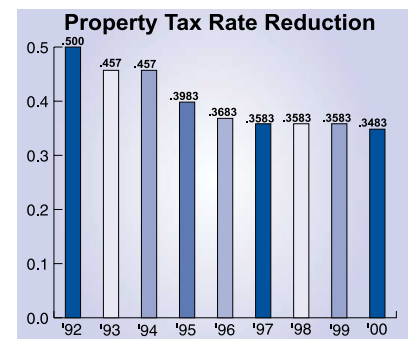
In addition, citizens may make suggestions for community improvements by electronically filling out a form that is returned to Community Development for review. Later this year, in addition to traditional newspaper advertising, formal bids will be available to vendors on the City's Web site.

There are two other video attractions on the City's Web site: *Vision, Reality, Resources*, an 11-minute profile of Sugar Land, and *Sugar Land In the Fort Bend County Economy*, a video about why the City continues to prosper. Make popcorn, because the video clocks at almost two hours.

City Property Tax Rate



For tax year 2000, City Council has approved a one-cent tax decrease to \$0.3483 per \$100 assessed valuation. Since 1993, the City's ad valorem tax rate has dropped by 30%. Also, there will not be an increase in water/wastewater and solid waste fees to residents. The City will continue to deliver programs and services at the quality levels expected by residents.



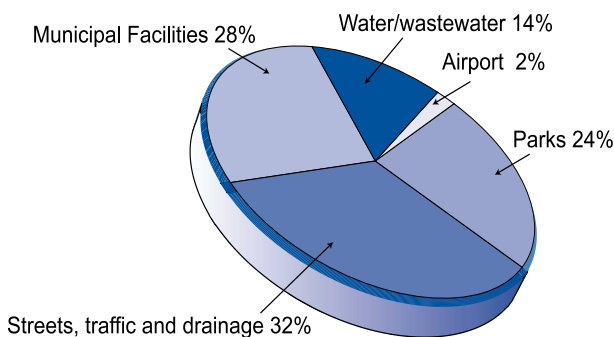
Budget

(continued from page 1)

expansion, parks improvements, and the new University of Houston-Sugar Land facility planned for groundbreaking later this fall. Sales tax revenue also funds 55% of the general fund, which includes basic city services such as police and fire protection, public works and parks and recreation.

Homeowners are projected to receive \$152 million in residential exemptions, totaling 2.98% of total assessed valuation. Projected corporate tax abatements of \$182 million represent 3.55%. While homeowner exemptions are granted indefinitely, tax abatements typically range from four to ten years and do not include personal property or inventory.

The Capital Improvements Program for FY 2000-2001 totals \$22.5 million:



The budget places special emphasis on public safety and mobility:



- Fire Station #5, opening September 2001, will be funded for the last two months of fiscal year 2001 at a total cost of \$144,000, including salaries, benefits and outfitting for 12 firefighters, and station operating costs.
- Purchase of a rescue vehicle for \$190,000 allows the Fire Department to run the majority of EMS/rescue calls without using a fire engine.
- Phase II in a five-year lease/purchase agreement to acquire an integrated public safety system that includes computer aided dispatching, police and fire records management, mobile data terminals and automated vehicle locators for a cost of \$211,000.
- Addition of three traffic officers totaling \$247,280 to be partially reimbursed through a state grant.
- Expansion of the Police and Municipal Court Facility at a cost of \$3.4 million.
- Extensions of West Airport and Commonwealth Boulevards at a cost of \$4.1 million.

The City's ratio of employees per 1,000 population is 6.71. Continued privatization efforts and efficient management allow the City to maintain a low employee ratio without sacrificing services.

The *Fort Bend Southwest Sun* recently was awarded a contract to publish the City's legal notices. Residents may also find legal notices posted on the City's Web site at www.ci.sugar-land.tx.us.

CITY COUNCIL

Dean A. Hrbacek
Mayor

James A. Thompson
Councilmember-At-Large
Position One

Karyn K. Dean
Councilmember-At-Large
Position Two

Donald L. Smithers
Councilmember
District One

Cyril Hosley
Mayor Pro-Tem
Councilmember
District Two

J. Brian Gaston
Councilmember
District Three

Michael J. Siwierka
Councilmember
District Four

CITY STAFF

David Neeley
City Manager

Allen Bogard
Deputy City Manager

Claire Manthei
Director of Finance/Administration

Karen Glynn
Director of Community Development

Earnest Taylor
Police Chief

John Wu
Fire Chief

Joe Morris
City Attorney

Glenda Gundermann
City Secretary

City to Build New Accommodations for Residents/Visitors

The City is working with Stormont Trice Development and Sugarland Properties, Inc. over the next six months to build a full-service hotel/conference center. It will include a restaurant, a grand ballroom, and additional flexible meeting rooms, and will be located at the U.S. Highway 59 and State Highway 6 intersection.

The agreement resulted from market research, which concluded that there is market demand for a full-service hotel. Currently, one does not exist in the Sugar Land marketplace.

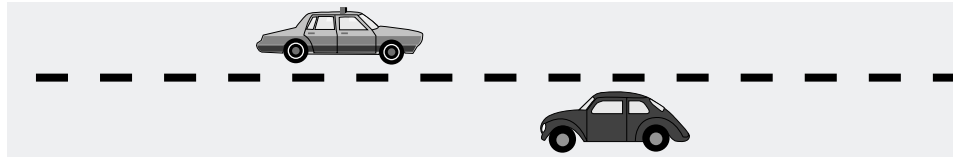
The facility could accommodate charitable organization activities, proms and other school events, weddings and major business functions.



City Council approved a change to the sign ordinance which bans all stake signs from public right-of-ways, such as traffic and telephone poles. Signs that are prohibited on public property are notices advertising such topics as garage sales, lost dogs, real estate, and those advertising goods and services. In addition to neighborhood right-of-ways, this ordinance prohibits stake signs on such major city thoroughfares as U.S. Highway 59, U.S. 90A, Dulles Boulevard, Dairy Ashford Road, Spur 41, Brooks Street and State Highway 6.

Residents may continue to put signs on their private property, in conformance with their subdivision rules. For further questions, residents may call Development Services at 281-275-2765.

Your Vote



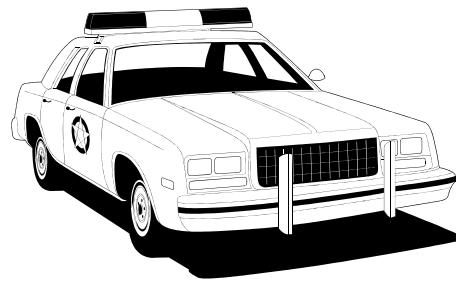
Will Count

Sugar Land will be directly affected by 25% of the mobility projects proposed in Proposition 2 of Fort Bend County's bond referendum scheduled for November 7. The \$86 million bonds are proposed to leverage projects such as the expansion of U.S. Highway 59, U.S. 90A and State Highway 6. Passage of the bond referendum would also allow the County to participate in Sugar Land projects such as:

- Widening of West Bellfort Avenue, between Dairy Ashford and Eldridge.
- Construction of University Boulevard, from Commonwealth to U.S. Highway 59.
- Extension of West Airport Boulevard, from Eldridge to Burney.
- Improvements to Voss Road, Dulles Avenue, Burney Road and future sections of University Boulevard.

Proposition 1 of the bond referendum requests voters to authorize bonds for the construction of two tollways: Fort Bend Parkway and Westpark. Both tollways would relieve traffic on State Highway 6, U.S. 90 A, and U.S. Highway 59.

Polling locations can be found at the County's Web site: www.co.fort-bend.tx.us.



On the Road To Safety

To better direct the City's growth, City Council developed visions and goals. One of the Council's visions is "safe city," which may be defined as one having a police presence, fire stations, timely responses to emergencies, and safety in all areas of living, like health and environmental safety.

In line with this vision, the City has received a \$450,000 federal grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to place six more traffic officers on roads. Three officers will be hired this month, and three more will be hired in October 2001. Says Lieutenant David Marcaurele, "These officers will allow us to continue, and improve, our response to traffic-related concerns in the City."

Sugar Festival's "Sweet" Highlights



1



2



3



4



5



6



7

- 1 A large crowd listens to The Turtles concert. Other musical guests at the Festival included The Doobie Brothers, Tim Rushlow, and The Box Tops.
- 2 My, what rough skin you have! Onlookers get the "skinny" on alligators.
- 3 The Sugar Gator made his appearance. Here, he checks on his brethren at the Kachunga and the Alligator show.
- 4 Nicolas Cueto picks up speed on his motorcycle.
- 5 Temperatures reached over 100 degrees over the Labor Day weekend, so people tried everything from eating shaved ice to sitting in the air conditioned Peppermint Pavilion to keep cool. Here, Shakshir and Nidia Manzano cool off underneath a misting umbrella.
- 6 Brian and Taylor Kennedy try to stay up-right on one of the many carnival rides at the Festival.
- 7 The City had its own tent where children were fingerprinted by Sugar Land police, and where people played an "enviro-shopping" game and learned how to extinguish grease fires.

New Hangar Has Western Airways Flying High

Western Airways, Inc., a large aircraft charter and management service, has built a 27,600 square foot hangar and office structure on the eastern side of the Sugar Land Municipal Airport to consolidate its operations and over 20 aircraft to the area.

City Council approved a 30-year lease for 1.2 acres, with two five-year options, for Western Airways. Property taxes on the fleet will add nearly half a million dollars in revenue to the city, county and school district, and generate over \$435,000 a year in taxes, fuel revenues and fees.

ECO Resources Awarded Contract

To ensure high quality service and privatize where appropriate, the City awarded ECO Resources a contract to operate and maintain water and wastewater systems for First Colony. The contract is effective October 1.

ECO Resources currently provides this service to many customers within the First Colony area. For several years, both ECO Resources and City staff have operated the City's Southern Utility System.

First Colony residents should call ECO Resources at 281-240-1300 to report water and wastewater service needs such as water leaks, wastewater stoppages, and water quality problems. ECO Resources maintains a 24-hour, seven day a week dispatch center. Water billing questions will continue to be directed to the City's Revenue Department at 281-275-2750.

City Donates Book Covers to FBISD



The City's Water Utilities Division recently has donated custom book covers to Fort Bend Independent School District (FBISD) elementary schools for the coming school year. The book covers feature artwork of six local students.

Local students participated in an art contest during Water Awareness Day, an event which helps to promote water conservation and pollution prevention methods in the community. Students were asked to draw pictures of water conservation methods, and winners' artwork was used to produce book covers.

Winning students attended E.A. Jones Elementary, Colony Meadows Elementary and Settlers Way Elementary Schools.

City To "TREAT" Residents To Halloween Fun Night

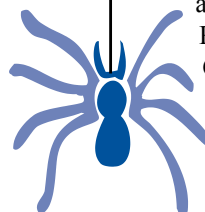
Sugar Land residents will not have a "ghost" of a chance getting "boored" at the 15th Annual Halloween Fun Night on Saturday, October 28. Carnival games and costume contests are just part of the activities taking place at the event.

Come to the Sugar Land Community Center, located at 226 Matlage Way, from 5 to 9:00 p.m. The event provides a safe and fun environment for families in the Fort Bend/Southwest Houston area.

The Fun Night will feature refreshments and trick-or-treating in a haunted, but humorous, setting. A special game room will welcome

youngsters ages five and younger. Costume contests for children and adults will take place throughout the evening, beginning at 5:30 p.m. for children ages three and younger and ending with the Best Family contest. Prizes are donated by local merchants, and are given to the top three winners in each category.

Admission to the event is free. There is a minimal charge for game participation and food. Sugar Land's Parks and Recreation Department, the Sugar Creek Rotary Club and Southern National Bank are sponsoring the Fun Night. For more information, call (281) 275-2885.



City's Web Site a Big "Hit"



As of this month, the City's Web site has received over one million hits. The site, which has existed since April 1996, is a popular source of information. In particular, the City's job postings, Parks and Recreation, City Council videos and U.S. Highway 59 Expansion Project information are frequently visited. The site is continually being updated, so visit it often to learn what is happening around Sugar Land.

National Night Out



Sugar Land Police Sergeant Eric Robins meets with residents of Barrington Place subdivision at the National Night Out Party held at Ron Slockett Park.



Tommie Anderson and her father cool off at a party at Ragus Lakes.

Police 2000 Trading Card Program Kicks Off

The officer trading card contest was such a big hit in 1998 that the Department is repeating the program again in 2000.

The 2000 trading card program, which began September 1, is an opportunity to expand the good relationship that many residents already have with Sugar Land police officers. The trading cards are icebreakers for a police officer and a child when they first meet. Children who collect the entire set of 110 cards will be eligible for prizes. Card collectors will be invited to come to the police facility every Friday afternoon for a tour of the building. For more information about the rules of the contest, please contact Sergeant Angie Womble at 281-275-2520.

Seat Your Child For Safety



Sugar Land Police Officer Jennifer Taylor checks one of 61 child passenger safety seats at a child safety seat demonstration. Common mistakes are having safety seats restrained too loosely in the vehicle or installing "rear-facing only" seats facing forward.

Contact the Sugar Land Police Department Traffic unit at 281-275-2585 for more information on safety seats or to schedule an appointment to make sure your child's seat is installed properly.

Citywide Bicycle Registration-



If you own a bicycle and live in Sugar Land, you will want to bring it to the fourth annual bicycle registration clinic on Saturday, October 14, from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the Sugar Land Police Facility, 1200 Highway 6. If you miss this registration, though, you can go to the Police Department and register any time throughout the year.

If your bicycle is ever lost or stolen, the Sugar Land Police Department will be able to identify it and return it to you. At the registration clinic, police personnel will engrave the bike with the parent's or owner's drivers license number and place an identification tag on it.

For more information about the citywide bicycle registration, please contact Sergeant Angie Womble at 281-275-2520 or Officer Butch McAllister at 281-275-2575.

Working to Stay Out of Trouble

Juvenile offenders now have an opportunity to "work off" their fines by tending to a community garden. The produce of which will be donated to local food pantries.

The City of Sugar Land received a state grant to establish a community garden that will be maintained by juvenile offenders. By requiring the offenders to perform community service instead of paying a fine, the City expects that a connection between behavior and consequences will be established. In addition, the program provides food pantries with produce to give to the elderly and/or disadvantaged in the community.

Responsibilities of the juvenile offenders will include digging, weeding, hauling dirt, watering, pest control, harvesting and simple construction projects using hand tools. The garden, which will be located next to the City's Public Works Facility, will be tended to on a year-round basis.

For information on this program, call (281) 275-2561.



The Houston American Society for Industrial Security honors Sugar Land Police Officer Kelly Gless with the organization's Officer of the Month Award for his community involvement and exceptional work in the Department's patrol division. (L to R) Chairman of the Houston ASIS Chapter Cecil Turner, Sugar Land Police Officer Kelly Gless, Sugar Land Police Lieutenant Mike Lund and Houston ASIS Law Enforcement Committee Chairman Lewis Griffith.

A New HOT SPOT in Sugar Land- Fire Fighter Academy

Wharton County Junior College and the Sugar Land Fire Department have teamed up to create a Fire Fighter Academy to teach students fire training exercises. Course completion will allow students to take a state exam to become certified firefighters in Texas.

The curriculum consists of seven courses ranging from three to five semester credit hours each and, upon completion, will provide the certification requirement of 600 total training hours and provide 26 hours of college credit. Students will learn skills ranging from tying knots to hands-on fire training exercises. The courses have been reviewed and approved by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection Personnel Standards and Education.

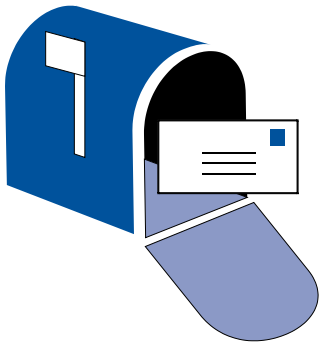
The Sugar Land Fire Department is leasing facilities and fire apparatus, as well as other fire service equipment, as needed for the courses. The Academy, in turn, will enable the City to recruit local firefighter candidates for Fire Stations 5 and 6, which will be built by Summer 2002.

For further information contact Wharton County Junior College at 1-800-561-9252.



Sugar Land firefighter Rudy Astorga recently demonstrated the proper way of using a fire extinguisher to K-Tec employees. Companies interested in learning how to use a fire extinguisher may schedule a free class by calling the Sugar Land Fire Department at 281-275-2859.

Coming to a Mailbox Near You: Yard Management Practices Packet



The City's Solid Waste Division is sending residents a packet, "Your Yard and the Environment," to help them adopt better yard care techniques. The packet, which will be available in English and Spanish, is based upon practices adopted by state and local public agencies. Information includes: Backyard Composting, Grasscycling/ "Don't Bag It," Xeriscaping, Outdoor Water Conservation, and Low Impact Pest Management.

For more information on yard care, residents can request a copy of "A Green Guide to Yard Care" by contacting the Solid Waste Division at 281-275-2450.



Fire Station #5 Underway

In Fall 2001, Sugar Land should welcome Fire Station #5, located at the corner of Commonwealth and Elkins. Construction is anticipated to begin in the near future.

The 7,900 square-foot facility is capable of housing four firefighting apparatus. One engine will be based at this location initially, and four full-time firefighters will be on duty 24-hours a day, seven days a week. The station will serve Avalon and the southern portions of Sugar Land. Once University Boulevard is constructed, the station also will relieve the call loads from U.S. Highway 59 and any additional demand from the new University of Houston campus.

Waste Not, Want Not - Hazardous Waste Collection Scheduled

Hold on to your household hazardous wastes - at least until next Spring. A hazardous waste collection is scheduled for next year at the Schlumberger Campus in Sugar Land. All Sugar Land residents and Municipal Utility Districts (MUDs) located immediately outside the City limits may participate in the collection.

The City received a \$67,860 grant from Houston-Galveston Area Council to educate Sugar Land residents on the reduction and alternative uses of hazardous wastes. Over 75,000 pounds of hazardous wastes were delivered to, and safely and properly disposed of at, the 1999 hazardous waste collection event. Staff anticipates the same amount of participation in 2001, and that hazardous waste collection will become a biannual event.

Community Action Center (CAC)

The CAC is a resource for citizens who do not know where to call or require assistance beyond what already has been provided. You may direct any questions, complaints, compliments and service requests to the CAC. You will be assisted first-hand- no tape-recorded message telling you what number to press to have your particular question answered.

Let the City hear from you! The CAC is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and is located in Sugar Land's City Hall at 10405 Corporate Drive. You can reach the CAC by telephone, E-mail, fax or letter. Voice mail is available after hours.

CAC-Community Action Center
10405 Corporate Drive
Phone: 281/ ASK-CITY (275-2489)
Fax: 281/ 275-2721
E-Mail: action@cityhall.ci.sugar-land.tx.us

Models of the U.S. Highway 59 Expansion Project are touring the City. Currently, one model is on display at the Sugar Land Library. If you are interested in having a model on display at your place of business, call 281/275-2816.

To learn more about U.S. Highway 59 construction and traffic flow in the area, call the 59 at Hotline 281/276-9959.



City of Sugar Land
PO Box 110
Sugar Land, TX 77487-0110

A DATE TO REMEMBER

October

- 17** City Council Meeting
- 18 Senior Trip to Grand Casino Coushatta
- 24** City Council Workshop
- 28 Halloween Fun Night

November

- 7 National Election Day
- 7** City Council Meeting
- 21** City Council Meeting
- 23-24 Thanksgiving, City Offices Closed
- 28** City Council Workshop

December

- 5** City Council Meeting
- 6 Arts and Crafts Social
- 14 Senior Holiday Luncheon
- 15 Share Your Christmas Food Drive
- 19** City Council Meeting
- 22 Hanukkah
- 24 Christmas Day, City Offices Closed
- 25 Christmas Tree Drop-Off Center Opens

January

- 1 New Year's, City Offices Closed
- 2 Reservations accepted for Sugar Land and First Colony Community Centers

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